

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-24 without prejudice to further prosecution in a divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part or other application. Please add new claims 25-62 as follows:

1-5. (Canceled)

7-13. (Canceled)

15-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A hearing aid comprising:

a microphone for receiving input sounds and converting said input sounds into a first electrical signal;

an internal processor;

a speaker; and

a switch coupled to said speaker, wherein said switch couples said speaker to a remotely located communications device when said switch is in a first position selecting a first signal path, wherein said switch couples said speaker to said internal processor when said switch is in a second position selecting a second signal path, said internal processor processing said first electrical signal to generate a second electrical signal, said second electrical signal converted by said speaker to a speaker output when said switch is in said second position.

26. (New) The hearing aid of claim 25, wherein said microphone is coupled to said remotely located communications device when said switch is in said first position.

27. (New) The hearing aid of claim 25, wherein said remotely located communications device is a cellular telephone.

28. (New) The hearing aid of claim 25, further comprising a detector, wherein said switch alternates between said first and second position in response to an output signal from said detector.

29. (New) The hearing aid of claim 28, wherein said detector monitors a condition corresponding to said remotely located communications device.

30. (New) The hearing aid of claim 29, wherein said condition is a ring condition indicating an incoming call on said remotely located communications device.

31. (New) The hearing aid of claim 29, wherein said condition is an active telephone line indicating an outgoing call on said remotely located communications device.

32. (New) The hearing aid of claim 25, wherein said switch is a manually operated switch.

33. (New) The hearing aid of claim 28, wherein said detector monitors useage of said remotely located communications device and causes said switch to change from said first position to said second position if said remotely located communications device is inactive for a predetermined period of time.

34. (New) The hearing aid of claim 25, further comprising a second switch, said second switch having a first position corresponding to a power conservation mode and a second position corresponding to a normal use mode.

35. (New) The hearing aid of claim 25, wherein said internal processor is a multi-channel internal processor.

36. (New) The hearing aid of claim 35, wherein said multi-channel internal processor includes at least a first channel and a second channel, said first channel comprised of a high band compressor circuit, a controllable high pass gain block and a first amplifier, and said second channel comprised of a low band compressor, a low pass gain block and a second output amplifier.

37. (New) The hearing aid of claim 25, further comprising a controller coupled to said internal processor, said controller providing a first set of control parameters to said internal processor when said switch is in said first position and a second set of control parameters to said internal processor when said switch is in said second position.

38. (New) The hearing aid of claim 37, wherein said internal processor is interposed between said speaker and said remotely located communications device when said switch is in said first position, and wherein said first set of control parameters is adapted to address an identified deficiency in sound quality associated with said remotely located communications device.

39. (New) The hearing aid of claim 37, wherein said internal processor is interposed between said speaker and said remotely located communications device when said switch is in said first position, and wherein said first set of control parameters is adapted to provide noise filtering.

40. (New) The hearing aid of claim 37, wherein said internal processor is interposed between said speaker and said remotely located communications device when said switch is in said first position, and wherein said first set of control parameters is adapted to compensate for a specific hearing impairment prior to a third signal from said remotely located communications device being converted and output by said speaker.

41. (New) The hearing aid of claim 37, wherein said second set of control parameters is adapted to address a specific hearing impairment.

42. (New) The hearing aid of claim 26, further comprising a controller coupled to said internal processor, said controller providing a first set of control parameters to said internal processor when said switch is in said first position and a second set of control parameters to said internal processor when said switch is in said second position.

43. (New) The hearing aid of claim 42, wherein said internal processor is interposed between said microphone and said remotely located communications device when said switch is in said first position, and wherein said first set of control parameters is adapted to address an identified deficiency in sound quality provided to said remotely located communications device.

44. (New) The hearing aid of claim 42, wherein said internal processor is interposed between said microphone and said remotely located communications device when

said switch is in said first position, and wherein said first set of control parameters is adapted to filter ambient noise received by said microphone.

45. (New) The hearing aid of claim 42, wherein said second set of control parameters is adapted to address a specific hearing impairment.

46. (New) A hearing aid comprising:
a microphone for receiving sounds and converting said sounds into a first electrical signal;
an internal processor;
a speaker;
a switch for altering said hearing aid from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation, wherein during said first mode of operation said internal processor processes said first electrical signal in accordance with a first set of control parameters adapted to address a specific hearing impairment, wherein during said second mode of operation said microphone operates as an input device for a remotely located communications device, and wherein during said second mode of operation said speaker operates as an output device for said remotely located communications device.

47. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein during said second mode of operation said internal processor processes a second signal from said remotely located communications device prior to said second signal being converted and output by said speaker.

48. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein during said second mode of operation said internal processor processes a second signal from said remotely located communications device to improve sound quality prior to said second signal being converted and output by said speaker.

49. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein during said second mode of operation said internal processor processes a second signal from said remotely located communications device to filter ambient background noise prior to said second signal being converted and output by said speaker.

50. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein during said second mode of operation said internal processor processes a second signal from said remotely located communications device to compensate for a specific hearing impairment prior to said second signal being converted and output by said speaker.

51. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein during said second mode of operation said internal processor processes said first signal from said microphone prior to said first signal being input to said remotely located communications device.

52. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein during said second mode of operation said internal processor processes said first signal from said microphone to filter ambient background noise prior to said first signal being input to said remotely located communications device.

53. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein said remotely located communications device is a cellular telephone.

54. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, further comprising a detector, wherein said switch alternates between said first and second modes of operation in response to an output signal from said detector.

55. (New) The hearing aid of claim 54, wherein said detector monitors a condition corresponding to said remotely located communications device.

56. (New) The hearing aid of claim 55, wherein said condition is a ring condition indicating an incoming call on said remotely located communications device.

57. (New) The hearing aid of claim 55, wherein said condition is an active telephone line indicating an outgoing call on said remotely located communications device.

58. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein said switch is a manually operated switch.

59. (New) The hearing aid of claim 54, wherein said detector monitors useage of said remotely located communications device and causes said switch to change from said second

mode of operation to said first mode of operation if said remotely located communications device is inactive for a predetermined period of time.

60. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, further comprising a second switch, said second switch having a first position corresponding to a power conservation mode and a second position corresponding to a normal use mode.

61. (New) The hearing aid of claim 46, wherein said internal processor is a multi-channel internal processor.

62. (New) The hearing aid of claim 61, wherein said multi-channel internal processor includes at least a first channel and a second channel, said first channel comprised of a high band compressor circuit, a controllable high pass gain block and a first amplifier, and said second channel comprised of a low band compressor, a low pass gain block and a second output amplifier.